

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 7-21 and 27-38 are canceled without prejudice as being drawn to non-elected groups of claims. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in subsequent applications.

Claims 1-6 and 22-26 are pending.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,701,884 to Dedrick (hereinafter, "Dedrick"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The claimed invention concerns a portable profile carrier that stores and securely transports a user's profile and personal user data files from one computer to the next. The profile carrier is a two-component assembly comprising a storage card (e.g., smart card) and a card reader.

In one exemplary implementation, the card reader is physically constructed in a form factor of a PCMCIA card and has a slot to receive the storage card. The card reader has a card interface and controller to facilitate data communication with the storage card. The reader is equipped with data memory (e.g., flash memory) to store the user profile and data files. The storage card protects access to the data memory in the card reader. The composite profile carrier alternately enables access to the user profile on the flash memory when the card is present and the user is authenticated, while disabling access when the card is removed or the user is not authenticated within a certain time period.

1 To access the contents in the data memory, the user assembles the card  
2 reader and storage card and inserts the assembled carrier into a PCMCIA device  
3 reader at the computer. The user is prompted to enter a passcode and the storage  
4 card authenticates the user by comparing the user-supplied passcode to a passcode  
5 stored on the storage card. Assuming that the user is legitimate, the storage card  
6 authenticates the card reader. If valid, access to the user profile and data files on  
7 the data memory is permitted.

8 **Claim 1** defines an assembly comprising "a device constructed in a form  
9 factor of a PCMCIA card, the device having an interface to communicate with a  
10 storage card and memory to store user data". The assembly further comprises "a  
11 removable storage card associated with a user that alternately enables access to the  
12 user data on the memory when interfaced with the device interface and disables  
13 access to the user data when removed from the device."

14 The recited assembly is not shown by the Dedrick reference. That is,  
15 Dedrick does not show an assembly that includes *both* "a device constructed in a  
16 form factor of a PCMCIA card [with] an interface to communicate with a storage  
17 card and memory to store user data" *and* "a removable storage card ... that  
18 alternately enables access to the user data on the memory when interfaced with the  
19 device interface and disables access to the user data when removed from the  
20 device." Please refer to the example construction illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3 of the  
21 Applicant's Specification. The assembly includes both the PCMCIA device (e.g.,  
22 card reader 60) and the storage card (e.g., card 62). The PCMCIA device has  
23 memory (e.g., flash memory 70) to store user data and an interface (e.g., card I/F  
24 66) to communicate with the storage card. When the card is inserted into the  
25

1 PCMCIA device, the composite assembly can then be inserted into a PCMCIA  
2 drive on the computer.

3 Dedrick merely shows a conventional system that employs only a smart  
4 card to carry a user's profile. Dedrick is entirely void of any disclosure of "a  
5 device constructed in a form factor of a PCMCIA card [with] an interface to  
6 communicate with a storage card and memory to store user data". Dedrick has no  
7 concept of the recited two-component assembly, and hence does not discuss or  
8 suggest the PCMCIA reader device.

9 Moreover, Dedrick represents the very prior art that Applicant sought to  
10 improve. Dedrick describes use of a smart card 11 to store minimum user  
11 information. Additional user information is kept on a personal profile server  
12 connected to a network system. To change the residence of the information to a  
13 new computer, the minimum user information on the smart card 11 is used to  
14 secure a connection between the computer and the profile server of the network  
15 system. This is akin to the description provided in the "Background" section of  
16 the subject application, which discusses use of "smart card tokens" assigned to  
17 users to store such information as the user name, domain name, and password.  
18 (See, Applicant's Specification, paragraph 5 or page 2, lines 12-17).

19 The Office does not address the claimed features of an "assembly", and  
20 appears to have misread the claims. More specifically, the Office fails to indicate  
21 how the Dedrick reference teaches the two-component assembly that includes both  
22 a "device constructed in a form factor of a PCMCIA card" and "a removable  
23 storage card." The Office only points to a PCMCIA smart card 11 as having flash  
24 memory. (Office Action, Page 3, lines 1-6). In claim 1, however, the "device" is  
25 separate from the "storage card". The "device" has a PCMCIA form factor and

1 the claimed "memory to store user data". The storage card can be alternately  
2 interfaced with or removed from the device. Thus, application of a PCMCIA  
3 smart card fails to satisfy the claimed features.

4 Perhaps the Office interprets the claimed "device" as being met by the  
5 client computer 12. This interpretation, however, would not satisfy the claim  
6 language that the device "has a PCMCIA form factor". Accordingly, the Office's  
7 arguments advanced in the Office Action do not correlate with the claimed subject  
8 matter and hence, do not support of the §102 rejection.

9 For the reasons given above, the Dedrick patent fails to show the assembly  
10 of claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejection be withdrawn.

11 **Claims 2-5** depend from claim 1 and are allowable by virtue of this  
12 dependency. Additionally, these claims recite features that, when taken together  
13 with those of claim 1, define assemblies not described by Dedrick.

14 For example, **claim 4** requires that the device store "a user's profile that can  
15 be used to configure a computer." Dedrick is entirely silent as to any such  
16 "device" as Applicant claims and hence, provides no discussion of such a device  
17 storing a user profile. Moreover, Dedrick describes the smart card as storing user  
18 information, and hence teaches away from having a different device store such  
19 information. For these additional reasons, claim 4 is allowable over Dedrick.

20 **Claim 5** requires that "access to the user data in the memory of the device  
21 is enabled upon authentication of a user-supplied passcode to the passcode stored  
22 on the storage card." Dedrick provides no discussion of this security protocol in  
23 which the PCMCIA device and separate storage card interact to secure access to  
24 the user data. Accordingly, claim 5 is allowable over Dedrick for this additional  
25 reason.

1       **Independent claim 22** requires "a computer having a PCMCIA device  
2 reader" and "a smart card secured memory assembly having a form factor of a  
3 PCMCIA card to compatibly interface with the PCMCIA device reader in the  
4 computer". Claim 22 further requires that the smart card secured memory  
5 assembly have "data memory to store user data and a removable smart card that  
6 alternately enables access to the user data when present and disables access to the  
7 user data when removed."

8       Dedrick is entirely silent as to "a smart card secured memory assembly"  
9 that includes "data memory to store user data" and a separate "removable smart  
10 card". Furthermore, Dedrick has no discussion whatsoever of an assembly where  
11 the removable smart card "alternately enables access to the user data when present  
12 and disables access to the user data when removed." Rather, Dedrick merely  
13 shows the conventional system of employing a smart card to hold user profile  
14 information.

15       Accordingly, claim 22 is patentable over Dedrick. Application respectfully  
16 requests withdrawal of the §102 rejection.

17       **Claims 23-24** depend from claim 22 and are allowable by virtue of this  
18 dependency. Additionally, these claims recite features that, when taken together  
19 with those of claim 22, define computer systems not described by Dedrick.  
20 Additionally, claim 24 is also allowable for similar reasons given above with  
21 respect to claim 5.  
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1        **35 U.S.C. §103**

2        Claims 6, 25, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being  
3        unpatentable over Dedrick in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,038,551 to Barlow et al.  
4        (hereinafter, "Barlow"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

5        The Office admits that Dedrick fails to teach the features recited in claims  
6        6, 25, and 26. Accordingly, the Office cites Barlow as teaching an encryption  
7        scheme where smart card 14 holds a private key and the host 12 has a public key.  
8        It is noted that the Barlow patent is assigned to Microsoft Corporation, the  
9        assignee of the subject application. Barlow has very little relevance to the claimed  
10       invention, other than it shows use of a smart card 12. Barlow provides no teaching  
11       of the claimed secured memory *assembly* having a PCMCIA device that interfaces  
12       with and reads a storage card; instead, like Dedrick, Barlow merely shows use of a  
13       smart card.

14       Accordingly, Barlow adds nothing to the teachings of Dedrick with regard  
15       to the claimed assembly found in claims 1 and 22. Both references, alone or in  
16       combination, fail to teach or suggest an assembly having "a device constructed in  
17       a form factor of a PCMCIA card [with] an interface to communicate with a storage  
18       card and memory to store user data" and "a removable storage card associated  
19       with a user that alternately enables access to the user data on the memory when  
20       interfaced with the device interface and disables access to the user data when  
21       removed from the device." as recited in claim 1. As such, claim 6 (which depends  
22       from claim 1) is allowable over the combination of Dedrick and Barlow.

23       Likewise, the Dedrick/Barlow combination does not teach or suggest "a  
24       smart card secured memory assembly having a form factor of a PCMCIA card to  
25       compatibly interface with the PCMCIA device reader in the computer" where the

1 smart card secured memory assembly has "data memory to store user data and a  
2 removable smart card that alternately enables access to the user data when present  
3 and disables access to the user data when removed" as required by claim 22.  
4 Thus, claims 25-26 (which depend from claim 22) are allowable over the cited  
5 combination.

6  
7 **Conclusion**

8 All pending claims 1-6 and 22-26 are in condition for allowance. Applicant  
9 respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the subject  
10 application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the  
11 Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney before issuing a subsequent  
12 Action.

13  
14 Respectfully submitted,

15  
16 Dated: 11/19/2001

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